

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-07  
AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /076 W  
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R 070130Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4981

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4482

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR MASS EC  
SUBJ: USG'S REAFFIRMATION OF THE KFIR VETO: CONVERSATION  
WITH PRESIDENT POVEDA

1. AS HAD BEEN AGREED SOME DAYS AGO I SAW ADMIRAL POVEDA TODAY ON THE EVE OF MY DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE COURTESIES AND TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED IN HIS RECENT CHECKUP AT THE BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL. HE THEN RAISED WITH ME, AS I HAD EXPECTED, THE PUBLIC CONFIRMATION IN WASHINGTON TODAY THAT THE KFIR SALE AGAIN HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE ISRAELIS AND AGAIN HAD BEEN VETOED BY THE USG. HE SAID THAT NATURALLY THIS HAD CAUSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN ECUADOR, WHICH HAD MAINTAINED SOME HOPE THAT THE KFIR DECISION MIGHT BE REVERSED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO AVERT ANY EMOTIONAL REACTIONS LOCALLY AND THAT HE HOPED THAT THIS LATEST PUBLIC AIRING OF THE MATTER WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE GOOD US-ECUADOREAN RELATIONS THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED DURING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

2. THE PRESIDENT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PROVIDING AN INCENTIVE TO THOSE IN THE AIR FORCE WHO WANTED TO COME TO A QUICK DECISION ON THE FRENCH-BRITISH-ISRAELI PACKAGE. HE TOLD ME THAT THERE  
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WAS A SESSION OF THE AIR FORCE HIGH COMMAND SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY ASKED GEN. LEORO, THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER, TO HOLD OFF ON ANY FINAL DECISION IN THE HOPES THAT, GIVEN ITS LATEST VETO OF THE KFIR SALE, THE USG MIGHT COME UP WITH SOME ALTERNATIVE OFFER TO MEET ECUADOR'S DEFENSE NEEDS.

3. I TOLD THE ADMIRAL THAT I WAS GRATEFUL FOR HIS TEMPERATE HANDLING OF THIS MATTER. I SAID THAT I COULD NOT BE SURE WHETHER WASHINGTON WOULD BE ABLE TO PROPOSE ANY ALTERNATIVE TO THE GOE. I HOPED THAT AT LEAST OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER ONE WAY OR THE OTHER COULD BE CONVEYED TO THE GOE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE AGREED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME WE WOULD BOTH DO OUR BEST TO KEEP RELATIONS ON AN EVEN COURSE.

4. DURING THE CONVERSATION THE PRESIDENT RAISED WITH ME THE EXASPERATION OF HIS ARMY COLLEAGUE ON THE SUPREME COUNCIL, GENERAL DURAN, OVER THE LONG LEAD TIMES INVOLVED IN THE DELIVERY TO ECUADOR OF RECOILESS RIFLES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT (REFTEL 4319). HE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT HIS EFFORTS TO AVOID REACTIONS THE MILITARY WHICH COULD HARM US-ECUADOREAN RELATIONS WERE BEING WEAKENED BY THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE BEING UNRESPONSIVE ACROSS THE BOARD IN REGARD TO MILITARY ITEMS. (HE HIMSELF, IN HIS ROLE AS NAVY COMMANDER, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, HOWEVER, OF THE FACT THAT THE TRANSFER OF AN OVERAGE DESTROYER SEEMS TO BE MOVING ALONG.)

5. COMMENT: WE CAN BE GRATEFUL THAT THE GOE APPARENTLY HAS NOT DECIDED TO REACT IN A HOT-HEADED MANNER TO THIS LATEST CONTRATEMPS. NEVERTHELESS, I AM CONVINCED THAT UNLESS WE CAN BE FORTHCOMING ON SOME OF THESE PENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY MATTERS, SUCH AS THE ONES DISCUSSED WITH POVEDA, OUR LEVERAGE HERE ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US WILL SOON DIMINISH. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE GOE WILL BEGIN TAKING POSITIONS SIMPLY TO SPITE THE U.S., ONLY THAT OUR INFLUENCE ON WHAT DECISIONS ARE TAKEN WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED.  
BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, EC, (POVEDA BURBANO, ALFREDO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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